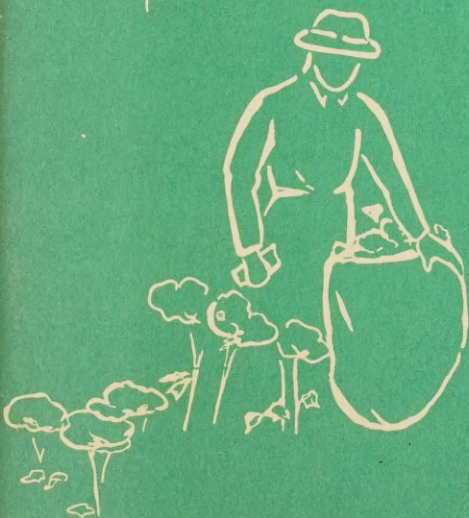
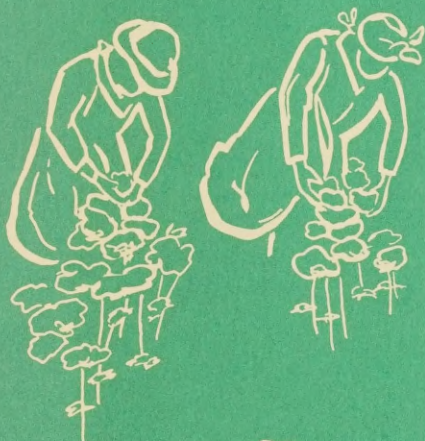


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HIRED



Unemployment  
of  
FARM WORKERS  
*in Pine Bluff, Arkansas*

May, 1952

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
*Bureau of Employment Security*

*in cooperation with*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
*Agricultural Research Service*

Washington 25, D. C.

August, 1954

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**National Agricultural Library**



# PREFACE

A great deal of interest has been expressed in the problems of underutilization of persons associated with farming. Most investigations on this subject have been directed toward the underutilization of the farm operator and the working members of his family. Some studies have been made of year-round hired workers and of migratory seasonal farm laborers. But little attention has been devoted to underutilization as it affects local workers hired for seasonal farm activities. Since shortages of seasonal workers have become a major problem in many farming areas, the underemployment of a sizable group of domestic farm workers is a matter of concern to the Bureau of Employment Security, and to other agencies dealing with farm manpower. In a broader sense, the unemployment of seasonal farm workers is the concern of all those interested in increasing job opportunities for agricultural workers.

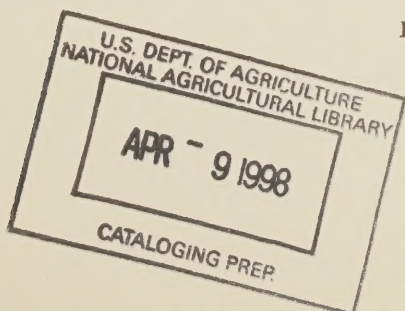
In May 1952, a survey of unemployment and partial employment of hired farm workers in four areas was undertaken by the Division of Reports and Analysis in cooperation with the Farm Placement Service, Bureau of Employment Security, U. S. Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Field survey operations were conducted under the direction of State agricultural statisticians in each State involved in consultation with the State and local employment security offices. A summary report, entitled "Unemployment and Partial Employment of Hired Farm Workers in Four Areas," was issued by the cooperating agencies in 1953.

This report presents in some detail the results of a study made in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, one of the four areas. A previous report issued by the Bureau of Employment Security dealt with results of the study in Roswell and Artesia, New Mexico. The Production Economics Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is publishing detailed reports on farm workers in Opelousas and surrounding towns in two parishes of Louisiana, and in Cordele, Georgia.

## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Employment Security  
Division of Reports and Analysis  
Washington 25, D. C.

August 1954





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# UNEMPLOYMENT AND PARTIAL EMPLOYMENT OF

## HIRED FARM WORKERS

*in Pine Bluff, Arkansas*

by Lester Rindler and William Mirengoff

Farm workers living in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, commute to the surrounding area for seasonal employment in agriculture each year during the cotton-chopping and harvest seasons, and have intermittent jobs during the remainder of the year. The purpose of this study, conducted in May 1952 by the Bureau of Employment Security and the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was to measure the extent to which such workers are unemployed and underemployed and the extent to which they are available for additional employment. The survey was also concerned with the employment history of this group of workers, their personal characteristics, and earnings.

The results of this survey will be used by the Bureau of Employment Security and its affiliated State agencies as a basis for developing programs for the more complete use of local seasonal farm workers in cotton areas. Although the study was made in a period of generally tight labor conditions resulting from the mobilization of the national economy for the Korean conflict, the underlying problem is a continuing one. Farming in many areas requires the services of large numbers of seasonal workers for short periods. As the farm population declines and farm workers are absorbed by industry, it becomes increasingly important to utilize as fully as possible the remaining farm manpower resources.

This report should be of interest to cotton growers who annually face the problem of obtaining enough workers for "chopping" and harvesting. Persons in-

terested in the problems of population pressures in the South and in regional development plans may find some phases of the report of interest. The study may also shed some light on the problems of economic security of farm workers.

### How the Study Was Made

Farm workers in Pine Bluff, who are almost all Negro, live in one section of the city. This section was divided into 183 segments, each having about the same number of households. One-third of these segments were selected at random. Within each selected segment, every household was checked to identify those having persons who had done some farm wage work in the preceding year. Of 773 households checked, schedules were obtained from 204. Two schedules were used--one for household heads, with special questions about family composition added, and one for all other workers in the households. Although this survey covered only workers in Pine Bluff, the results are relevant for many other cities and towns in the South where conditions are similar.

Table 1. Population and workforce of households surveyed, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Item	Number	Percent
Households visited	773	--
Households surveyed	204	--
Population of households surveyed	821	--
Workers in households surveyed	435	100
Nonfarm work only	86	20
Farm work	349	80

---

## SUMMARY

The farm workers surveyed were frequently out of work during the survey year. Sometimes they were out of work but not actively seeking employment, while at other times they were willing to work but were without jobs. Housewives and female household heads withdrew from the labor force from time to time because of their household responsibilities. School youth were out of the labor force most of the year while attending school. Counting as unemployed only those workers in the labor force who indicated that they were willing to work, but were without a job, unemployment affected 36 percent of the farm workers surveyed at some time during the year. Seasons of unemployment varied inversely with requirements for cotton cultivating and harvesting. During the winter months, about one-fourth of the farm workers who wanted to work were unemployed. Again in August, 29.5 percent of the labor force was unemployed. The monthly average rate of unemployment was 12.5 percent throughout the course of the year.

Frequently during the time that farm workers were employed, they worked a reduced workweek. In the 2 weeks preceding the survey, the average employed worker had 5 days or less of work in cotton chopping. The partial employment usually occurred because no work was available or because weather and crop conditions were not favorable.

The high incidence of unemployment resulted from the seasonal nature of cotton farming which requires a large number of workers for about 2 months in early summer and about 3 months in fall.

During work periods, there is frequent job turnover between employers.

As a result of this irregular pattern of employment, earnings of seasonal farm workers are low. Average earnings from 19 weeks of farm work and 5 weeks of nonfarm work during the survey year were only \$494. The 46 male household heads in the sample averaged \$827 from farm and nonfarm work, while female household heads grossed only \$477 a year. Sons aged 16 and over averaged \$531 of wage earnings a year from farm and nonfarm work. Daughters aged 16 and over, who had less nonfarm work than sons, earned \$466 in the course of a year. Children under 16 grossed \$426, on the average.

Wages in farm jobs averaged \$4 to \$5 per day for cotton chopping and \$2 to \$3 per hundredweight for cotton picking. By comparison, men in the sample were able to earn between 75 cents and \$1 per hour for nonfarm work. On the other hand, wages on farm jobs were more attractive than wages for domestic service work and other jobs filled by female workers during seasons when farm work was not open.

The main concern of this survey was to determine to what extent the workers were available for additional employment during the year. Special questions asked of 201 workers between 16 and 60 years of age who expected to work less than 10 months in the year following the survey showed that 63 percent of those workers were available for additional local employment during seasons when they were not working and that 14 percent were available for nonlocal farm jobs. Since



this group of workers had local farm jobs in spring and fall, the periods of availability are in summer and winter. In August, when cotton is laid by, availability for additional work is highest, as school youth as well as unemployed adult workers are available at that time.

In considering programs to extend the length of employment of these farm workers during the year, it should be noted that a considerable proportion of the workers are secondary workers. Twenty-six percent of the workers surveyed were housewives and 11 percent were children under 16. When not actually working, women and children were usually out of the labor force and were not available. Sons and daughters aged 16 and over were frequently school youth not available for additional jobs. They comprised 21 percent of the surveyed group. In all, 58 percent of the farm workers were entirely or partially a dependent group.

The remaining 42 percent of the workers included a considerable number of female household heads. Although not secondary workers, female household heads are usually less interested in accepting employment during off seasons because of household responsibilities.

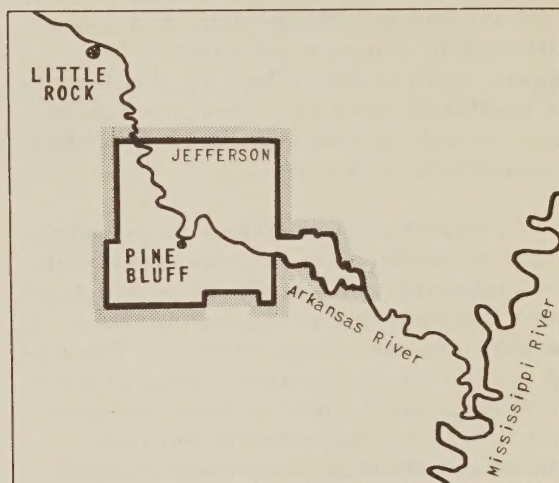
In view of the family characteristics of the workers, and in view of the fact that there was no recent history of temporary migration among those surveyed, it is evident that this group of workers is

not a potential source of supply for temporary farm work in other areas. Plans for more complete utilization of their labor would need to be centered mainly about the local employment situation. Pine Bluff is growing rapidly from a small trade and transportation center to an industrial city. The labor market, at the time of the survey, was fairly tight with respect to workers with technical skills, but was loose with respect to unskilled workers. This condition limited the non-farm job opportunities of workers in the study, who were mainly immigrants from surrounding rural areas and were not integrated completely into the economic life of the city.

From the long-range viewpoint, the fact that youth in the surveyed group had higher levels of educational attainment than their elders is significant. It indicates that boys and girls now in school may qualify for more skilled work than their parents were able to do. This points to the likelihood that youngsters reaching working age may enter the labor market with a primary interest in nonfarm jobs. Such a conclusion is supported by experience in other parts of the country with respect to the shift of farm youth to urban industrial centers. If this develops in Pine Bluff, farmers will need to adapt themselves to a smaller local seasonal labor supply either by more widespread use of machinery in cotton cultivating and harvesting or by recruiting workers from outside the area.

## DESCRIPTION

## OF THE AREA



Pine Bluff is the only city in Jefferson County, which lies in the south central part of Arkansas. Hilly in the northeast, the terrain of Jefferson County slopes downward to level bottom land in the western and southern sections along the Arkansas River. The county is primarily agricultural; in 1949 it produced 79,000 bales of cotton on 128,000 acres of cotton land. Other crops are corn, lespedeza, and rice, but the acreage in cotton is more than three times greater than the combined total for the other crops. There is some evidence that a shift in production from cotton to rice has occurred since 1950. Rice is less speculative than cotton as it is not affected greatly by unusual weather and does not depend on the off-farm labor supply.

The 5,000 farms in Jefferson County are mainly small tenant-operated units. Four of every 5 farms have less than 50 acres, and, at the other extreme, only 2 percent of the farms in the county are reported to have 500 or more acres, including farmland not used for crops. Two-thirds of the farms classified as "commercial" had sold less than \$2,500 in products in the year preceding the Census of 1950. Two-thirds of all farms in the county are operated by Negro tenants.

In addition to the farm operators and members of their families, who do most of the farm work on small farms, 2,344 regular hired workers are employed on the larger farms, according to Census figures. During the cotton-chopping season, from the end of May to mid-July, 2,500 additional hired workers are employed, and at the height of the cotton-picking season--October 1 to November 15--3,500 workers are needed in addition to family and year-round workers, Bureau of Employment Security reports show. Since this county is not in the path of the main stream of migrant Latin-American workers from Texas, seasonal cotton laborers are recruited locally for the most part, with a small number of migrants from other areas within the State and from other States. In recent years, several hundred Mexican nationals were brought in, under the International Agreement between the United States and Mexico, for chopping and picking employment on some of the larger farms.

Those people who work in seasonal agricultural activities include small farmers who leave their own plots to become temporary day workers on other farms, family members of small farmers, and workers and members of their families who live in towns or in the open country. An important source of local labor is the city



of Pine Bluff, and the focus of this study is among the group of farm workers residing in that city.

In the early mornings during cotton-chopping and picking seasons, truckers and workers gather at established departure points where workers are formed into crews or groups and are directed to employment. The farm placement officer of the Pine Bluff office of the Arkansas State Employment Service helps to facilitate the recruitment of these day-haul workers. Sometimes farmers are present also to recruit workers. More commonly, workers are transported to farms by truck owners who are compensated in either or both of two ways: truck owners may be paid for hauling to gin the cotton picked by their crew--usually at a rate of 25 cents per hundredweight, or they may be paid a fee by the grower according to the number of workers transported and the distance traveled. In addition to recruiting and transporting, truck operators are sometimes engaged by growers to supervise crews on the field.

Other supplementary recruitment devices are used, including newspaper and radio announcements. Preachers announce to their congregations that farm jobs are open, and persons interested are advised to contact the employment office.

The population of Pine Bluff, which was 37,000 in the 1950 Census, expanded 75 percent between 1940 and 1950 while that of the county as a whole increased by 16 percent. This indicates a shift of population from rural areas to Pine Bluff and the presence in Pine Bluff of a large work force with recent experience on farms. The farm-city shift is attributable largely to the attraction of jobs in defense industry and the development of trade and service facilities for these workers. This trend has continued since 1950 as the Pine Bluff Arsenal has been enlarged. Work in the plant and in construction pays \$1 to

\$1.25 per hour for common labor. This pay scale has attracted many people from farms as well as many former seasonal farm workers who reside in the city itself.

Pine Bluff is the trade and transportation center for a large section of southeastern Arkansas. At the time of the survey the leading industries in the city, employmentwise, were construction, ordinance manufacturing, trade, and transportation. Lumbering, service trades, government, machinery and electrical equipment manufacturing, and food processing were also important.

The Negro population of Pine Bluff was 44 percent of the total in 1950.<sup>1/</sup> The industrial and occupational distribution of the Negro work force differs considerably from that of the white population. A large proportion of the Negro workers are in personal service industries, including private household work. Another large group are laborers in the wholesale trade, manufacturing, construction, and transportation industries.

Unemployment in Pine Bluff varies seasonally as activities fluctuate in lumbering, farming, and construction. During the cotton-picking season, the employment situation is fairly tight, easing in winter and early spring. In April 1952, the month preceding the survey, unemployment was moderate in the area immediately surrounding Pine Bluff. Shortages were reported for professional and skilled workers, such as engineers, draftsmen, building materials estimators, and stenographers, but the supply of unskilled and semiskilled laborers was ample. A number of persons with agricultural backgrounds were registered in the local employment office as available for nonagricultural jobs.

<sup>1/</sup> United States Census of Population, 1950, General Characteristics, P-B4, Table 34



# CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND WORKERS

In order to evaluate the extent of underutilization of the farm workers studied and the possibility of developing programs to utilize this segment of the work force more effectively, it is important to examine the characteristics of the households of farm workers and the characteristics of the workers themselves. Farm workers were usually in their most vigorous working years, but many were dependent workers--wives and children--who worked part-time to supplement the family income.

## Households Surveyed

The 204 households in the survey group ranged in size from 1 person to 5 or more. Households of two sizes predominated; 2-person families and families of 5 or more members (appendix table A). An unusually high proportion of households were headed by women--41 percent. Fifteen women who maintained separate households for themselves, worked at seasonal farm jobs. By contrast, more than half of the households headed by men had 4 or more family members.

The average household included 2 or more workers, who were defined as persons who had worked at any time in the preceding year for wages. In households consisting of 2 persons, usually both were in the labor force at some time during the survey year. Households with 5 or more workers usually reported 3 or more persons as having worked some time during the preceding year. It was the exceptional households--other than 1-person households--that had only 1 wage earner.

## Age and Sex of Workers

There was a small percentage of very young workers reported in the households surveyed and a small proportion of workers over 65 years of age (table 2). The majority of the group was in vigorous working ages. These workers were not a

Table 2. Workers in farm-laborer households by age and sex, and by type of work done in preceding year, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Age and sex	Farm workers		Nonfarm workers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Both sexes	349	100	86	100
Under 14	20	6	-	-
14 - 19	81	23	3	3
20 - 34	77	22	19	22
35 - 54	122	35	44	51
55 - 64	23	7	10	12
65 and over	26	7	10	12
Male	105	100	78	100
Under 14	9	9	-	-
14 - 19	42	40	3	4
20 - 34	13	12	18	23
35 - 54	25	24	38	49
55 - 64	5	5	9	11
65 and over	11	10	10	13
Female	244	100	8	100
Under 14	11	5	-	-
14 - 19	39	16	-	-
20 - 34	64	26	1	12
35 - 54	97	40	6	76
55 - 64	18	7	1	12
65 and over	15	6	-	-



Figure 1. Pine Bluff farm workers live in houses like these. (Ark. ES photo)



Figure 2. Many of the seasonal farm workers in Pine Bluff are women. (Ark. ES photo)

residual work force left over after the able-bodied had been absorbed in other employment or had migrated to other areas. Two-thirds of the workers surveyed were between 20 and 65 years of age. There was, however, a large proportion of workers aged 14 to 19 among the farm workers in these households.

Census data for April 1950 show 35 percent of the nonwhite labor force in Pine Bluff to be female<sup>1/</sup>. By contrast, 58 percent of the workers in the surveyed households with employment experience in the preceding year were female, and almost all of the female workers were employed at farm work. This reflects the fact that secondary workers in these families were drawn into the work force from time to time to supplement the household income.

Of the 183 male workers surveyed, practically all of those under 20 and more than half of those 65 and over were employed at farm work only. The majority of those between 20 and 34, however, were

nonfarm workers. This indicates that male workers in the most productive age brackets were able to obtain nonfarm employment, leaving farm jobs available for women, youth, and older workers.

#### Education and Nonfarm Experience

Workers in farm-laborer households had considerably less education than persons in the corresponding age group in the white population of Pine Bluff, but about the same as that of the average Pine Bluff Negro in the corresponding age group. Table 3 shows an educational attainment of 6.8 grades for workers aged 25 and over in the surveyed households, compared with an average of 11.2 years for the white population aged 25 and over and 6.8 years for nonwhites of that age group in Pine Bluff.<sup>2/</sup>

Women in the surveyed group had more schooling than men. There was also a noticeable trend toward more education for school youth as shown by the fact that the median grade of school completed by the 18-19 year age group was 9.0, while workers 25 years of age and over averaged 6.8 years. The fact that very few children under 14 were found in the work force and

<sup>1/</sup> Difference in concept between persons in labor force during a specific week (Census) and persons employed at some time during preceding year (survey) should be noted. The basic difference between the two groups is evident, however.

<sup>2/</sup> Census of 1950, P-B4, op. cit. Tables 34 and 36.

Table 3. Median grade of school completed by all workers in farm-laborer households surveyed, by age and sex, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Age	Both sexes	Males	Females
All ages	7.4	6.9	7.8
Under 14	6.3	6.3	6.2
14 - 15	8.1	8.2	7.0
16 - 17	8.4	7.0	9.4
18 - 19	9.0	9.0	8.0
20 - 24	8.5	8.4	8.6
25 and over	6.8	6.3	7.2

the fact that youth had more schooling than their elders may signify a trend toward the development of higher skill for the group of workers from which farm workers are presently drawn.

A definite association was noted between the kind of work performed and the degree of educational attainment. Male farm workers over 18 in the surveyed group who had worked at farm jobs exclusively during the preceding year reported only 4.0 grades of school completed compared with 6.2 and 6.9 grades for those who had had any nonfarm jobs (table 4). However, it is evident that women in the sample were working at jobs completely unrelated to their educational attainments. This is a reflection of the limited opportunities for Negro women in jobs other than personal-service work or seasonal farm work in the Pine Bluff labor market.

Table 4. Median grade of school completed by farm workers, 18 years of age and over, in farm-laborer households surveyed, by type of work and sex of worker, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Type of work	Both sexes	Male	Female
All workers	7.3	6.2	7.7
Farm work only	7.4	4.0	7.6
Mostly farm work	7.2	6.9	8.1
Mostly nonfarm work	6.9	6.2	7.9

Workers in the surveyed households who had worked at nonfarm jobs in the preceding year had experience in a variety of occupations. The most frequent non-farm occupations mentioned were private household worker and laborer. Laborers worked mainly in the construction, lumber, and chemical industries, and for the local government. Farm workers were also questioned about other training or experience they may have had in nonfarm work, and virtually none was reported.

#### Types of Work Done and Duration of Employment

The 86 workers in the surveyed households who were exclusively nonfarm workers in the preceding year were heads of households for the most part. They reported jobs as craftsmen, operatives in nonagricultural processing industries, private household workers, and laborers.

The remaining 349 workers depended largely on farm work for their income. For purposes of this study, these farm workers were classified by the type of work performed in the preceding year, as shown in table 5. Seventy-five percent had done only farm work in the preceding year. A majority of the remainder had done more nonfarm work than farm work.

Table 5. Work classification of farm workers in the preceding year, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Type of work	Farm workers	
	Number	Percent
Total	349	100
Farm work only	261	75
Farm and nonfarm work	88	25
Mostly farm	39	11
Mostly nonfarm	49	14

The length of time which the farm workers spent in employment in the preceding year varied considerably. About half of all workers in the group had aggregated more than 17 but less than 40 weeks



Table 6. Farm workers by degree of attachment to farm work force, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Weeks of farm work in preceding year	Classification by degree of farm work	Farm workers	
		Number	Percent
Total	All types	349	100
1 - 4	Casual	14	4
5 - 16	Short-term seasonal	120	34
17 - 40	Long-term seasonal	213	61
More than 40	Regular	2	1

of all work, and about a fourth reported 5 to 16 weeks. Relatively few workers, usually those with combined farm and non-farm experience, reported more than 40 weeks of employment. In this study, farm workers were classified by their degree of attachment to the farm work force. Table 6 shows that three-fifths of the farm workers were long-term seasonal workers and one-third were short-term seasonal farm workers. Only a small percentage of workers were casual workers with less than 1 month's employment at farm jobs,

and only 2 were classified as regular farm workers.

#### Relationship of Farm Workers to Head of Household

The key to the employment patterns of farm workers and to their potential availability for other work lies in the family status of the farm workers. The farm workers surveyed could be divided into three groups--heads of households, children over 16 or other relatives, and wives and minor children. One in three of the workers interviewed who had done any farm work in the preceding year was a household head. Most of these were female household heads who combined family responsibilities with intermittent employment (table 7 and appendix table B). One in three was a son or daughter over 16 or other relative living in the farm-worker household. Many of these were actually school youth who cannot be considered independent primary workers. The remaining third of the seasonal farm worker group was made up of wives and of children under 16.



# UNEMPLOYMENT AND PARTIAL EMPLOYMENT

More than a third of the farm workers in the surveyed group were unemployed in one or more periods during the survey year. Most affected were male family heads as they were in the labor force continuously throughout the year. The rate of unemployment varied from month to month, reaching 26.3 percent of those in the labor force in winter and 29.5 percent during the lay-by period for cotton in August. The monthly average unemployment rate of 12.5 percent was approximately three times higher than the national average.<sup>1/</sup> Even during periods of employment, many days were lost from work because of the lack of work and for other reasons.

Farm workers surveyed were out of work for a variety of reasons from time to time. Three in four were not working (although not necessarily unemployed) during some weeks of the year. Housewives and female household heads retired from work after the cotton season to devote themselves to household duties. Children and youth attended school for many months during the year. Even adult male workers were out of work voluntarily at times. To measure the extent of unemployment, only those weeks were considered to be weeks of unemployment when workers were actually in the labor

force actively seeking work or when they wanted jobs but believed none were available. To arrive at the week-by-week labor force status of each worker, respondents were asked to recall what they did during each week of the preceding year. Responses were coded to show whether or not the person was in the labor force each week, and, if not in the labor force, whether he could be considered unemployed by the rigid definition adopted.

## Characteristics of Workers Reporting Unemployment

Male family heads and children over 16 were affected by unemployment more often than other workers in the households surveyed. Of 125 workers classified as

Table 7. Characteristics of unemployed workers compared with all workers surveyed, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Relationship to head	Surveyed group		Unemployed <sup>1/</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	349	100	125	100
Male heads	46	13	25	20
Female heads	71	20	20	16
Wives	90	26	20	16
Sons, 16 and over <sup>2/</sup>	27	8	13	10
Daughters, 16 and over <sup>3/</sup>	45	13	21	17
Children under 16	38	11	9	7
Others	32	9	17	14

<sup>1/</sup> Annual Report on the Labor Force 1952, Current Population Reports, Bureau of the Census, P-50, No. 45, Table K, page 9. National average rate of unemployment was 4.1 percent for wage and salary workers in agriculture in both 1951 and 1952.

<sup>1/</sup> Workers reporting one or more periods of unemployment during the survey year, May 1951-May 1952.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes sons-in-law.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes daughters-in-law.

unemployed at some time during the year, 20 percent were male family heads, 10 percent were sons over 16 years, and 17 percent were daughters over 16 (table 7). These three groups were half of the total number unemployed, although they accounted for only one-third of the surveyed group.

Those workers doing farm work exclusively were unemployed less often than those who combined farm and nonfarm work. The reason for this is tied in with the fact that they were more often secondary workers who retired from the labor force when not actually employed.

### Frequency and Duration of Unemployment

Although the incidence of unemployment was greatest among male family heads and sons over 16 who were in the labor force continuously, the severity of unemployment was greater for those female workers who were unemployed than it was for men. Unemployed men had 1.4 periods of joblessness on the average during the survey year, while wives or female heads of families who were unemployed

Table 8. Duration of individual periods of unemployment by relationship of worker reporting such periods to household head, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Relationship of workers to head of household	No.	Periods of unemployment					
		Percent distribution by weeks					
		Total	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17 or more
Total	199	100	41	19	8	8	24
Male heads	34	100	50	20	9	6	15
Female heads	43	100	39	19	5	9	28
Wives	42	100	19	14	14	12	41
Sons, 16 and over 1/	17	100	59	23	-	12	6
Daughters, 16 and over 2/	30	100	53	13	7	7	20
Children under 16	10	100	40	30	10	10	10
Others	23	100	43	22	9	-	26

1/ Includes sons-in-law.

2/ Includes daughters-in-law.

averaged two periods of unemployment (appendix table C). This is also borne out by table 8 which shows the duration of individual periods of unemployment by relationship of the worker to the head of the household. Fifty percent of the periods of unemployment reported by male family heads were for 5 weeks or more in duration, while 61 percent of the unemployment periods reported by female heads lasted 5 weeks or longer. Periods of unemployment of housewives averaged more than 13 weeks, and 41 percent of them lasted 17 weeks or more. This indicates that unemployed men had more opportunities for alternative employment than unemployed women in the group of workers surveyed.<sup>1/</sup>

### Seasonality of Unemployment

Since all workers selected for interview were seasonal farm workers, their pattern of unemployment was fashioned by the requirements of the cotton crop. Relatively low unemployment was reported in June and July during the cotton-chopping season (table 9), but unemployment reported for the month of August when cotton was laid by was extremely high. Unemployment was virtually nonexistent during the cotton harvest from September to November. Beginning in December the rate of unemployment rose sharply, reaching 26.3 percent in February and holding at high levels until the latter part of May when the new chopping season began.

<sup>1/</sup> The problem of measurement of unemployment among housewives partly in the labor force deserves reference. When not actually employed, some housewives reported themselves as "keeping house" and therefore out of the labor force. Others who were also "keeping house" considered themselves available for jobs. This subjective element entering into the classification of labor force status may partially explain the long periods of unemployment reported by some of the surveyed housewives.



Table 9. Unemployment of farm workers as a percentage of workers in the labor force, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, June 1951 - May 1952

Year and month	Unemployment rate
1951 June	1.3
July	4.3
August	29.5
September	2.4
October	0.4
November	0.4
December	4.9
1952 January	17.6
February	26.3
March	26.2
April	24.7
May	15.4
Average <sup>1/</sup>	12.5

<sup>1/</sup> Excluding May 1952.

### Partial Employment

Contributing to the economic insecurity of the surveyed group was the fact that very often during the time workers were presumed to be employed they worked a reduced workweek for either economic or personal reasons. During the 2-week period preceding the time of the survey, 94 workers were reported on farm jobs. These were asked how many days they had actually worked during the 2 weeks and the number of hours they had worked each day. The results showed an average of only 3 days worked by the male heads of families who were presumably "employed." Female family heads had a better record--7 days in the 2-week period. Wives and sons and daughters over 16 worked only about half of the time during the 2-week period. Only one-fourth of all farm workers had been employed fully during that period (appendix table D).

On those days when work was done, workers reported a full workday of 8 to 10 hours as a rule. The total number of hours worked during the 2 weeks averaged about 40, or 20 hours per week (table 10).

Table 10. Workers employed at farm jobs in preceding 2 weeks by hours worked, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Hours worked	Farm workers	
	Number	Percent
Total	94	100
1 - 19	8	9
20 - 39	39	41
40 - 59	14	15
60 - 79	9	10
80 - 99	20	21
More than 100	4	4

It should be pointed out that the 2 weeks preceding the interview were the second and third weeks in May--early in the cotton-chopping season in Jefferson County. The main reason for not working a full week was lack of work. The 94 workers who said they had been employed at farm jobs during the 2 weeks preceding the time of interview were without work for 383 of a possible total of 940 man-days. The main reason for not working during these 383 days was that no work was available for them. One-sixth of the days lost were attributed to weather and crop

Table 11. Days not worked (except Saturday and Sunday) in preceding 2-week period by 94 workers employed at farm jobs at that time, by relationship to head of household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Relationship of worker to head of household	Percent distribution by reason for not working				
	All reasons	Weather and crop conditions	No work available	Household duties	Unspecified
Total	100	17	32	14	37
Male heads	100	16	37	-	47
Female heads	100	21	27	26	26
Wives	100	12	37	28	23
Sons, 16 & over <sup>1/</sup>	100	7	19	-	74
Daughters, 16 & over <sup>2/</sup>	100	19	49	6	26
Children under 16	100	22	7	-	71
Others	100	21	25	39	15

<sup>1/</sup> Includes sons-in-law.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes daughters-in-law.

conditions. Housekeeping duties and other personal reasons were given for not working on the remaining days (table 11). Among male heads of families and among daughters over 16, economic reasons for the reduced workweek predominated, while for female household heads and housewives personal

reasons were equally as important as economic reasons. Children under 16 were more often out of work for personal than for economic reasons. There were too few sons over 16 in this special group of partially employed workers to draw any conclusions.



## PATTERNS OF EMPLOYMENT

To understand the reasons for the high incidence of unemployment among the group of workers surveyed, it is necessary to study the employment patterns of the surveyed group. The average farm worker is in the labor force only about half of the time. During this period, he may have a succession of short-term farm jobs and an occasional nonfarm job. Cotton-chopping jobs usually begin in May and end in July or August. Between September and December, the farm worker may have several cotton-picking jobs. Between January and April, he may be unemployed except for casual nonfarm jobs.

Employment of hired farm workers living in Pine Bluff is characterized by

seasonality, frequent job turnover, and short duration of individual periods of work. Most of the recruitment for farm work is done on a day-haul basis by farmers or truckers. Some workers return to work for the same farmers year after year.

### Labor Force and Employment Status of Farm Workers

The labor force status and the contribution to farm work of the workers surveyed were related to their position in the household (table 12). The largest single group of workers surveyed--comprising more than one-fourth of the total--was housewives. Generally they were in the

Table 12. Average man-weeks in labor force and out of labor force of farm workers, by relationship to head of household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, June 1951 - May 1952 <sup>1/</sup>

Relationship to head of household	Farm workers	Average man-weeks in labor force				Average man-weeks not in labor force			
		Total	Farm work	Non-farm work	Looking for work	Total	Keeping house	Attending school	Other
Total	349	28	19	6	3	20	13	6	1
Male heads	46	40	18	17	5	8	1	2	5
Female heads	71	27	21	5	1	21	19	<sup>2/</sup>	2
Wives of heads	90	21	18	3	<sup>2/</sup>	27	26	-	1
Sons, 16 and over <sup>3/</sup>	27	28	19	5	4	20	-	20	<sup>2/</sup>
Daughters, 16 and over <sup>4/</sup>	45	30	20	6	4	18	3	14	1
Children under 16	38	22	20	<sup>2/</sup>	2	26	4	22	<sup>2/</sup>
Others	32	33	22	<sup>8</sup>	3	15	11	3	<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> Based on 48-week year. <sup>2/</sup> Less than 0.5 percent. <sup>3/</sup> Includes sons-in-law  
<sup>4/</sup> Includes daughters-in-law.



labor force only 21 weeks of the year<sup>1/</sup>, most of which time was spent at farm jobs. Typically, a housewife would spend 6 or 8 weeks chopping cotton and 10 or 12 weeks picking cotton. A few of the housewives surveyed had nonfarm jobs during the off-seasons, usually as private household workers, but most of them retired from the labor force when not actually employed. Unemployment was virtually nonexistent among this group.

The second largest group of workers consisted of female household heads who numbered about one-fifth of the entire group of seasonal workers interviewed. These women, some of whom had no family responsibilities, averaged more time in the labor force than housewives. They spent an average of 21 weeks in cotton-chopping and picking activities, and 5 weeks, on the average, in nonfarm jobs. When not employed, they often withdrew from the labor force because of their household responsibilities. Unemployment averaged only about 1 week a year among this group.

Male heads of families, who were one-seventh of the total number of workers, were in the labor force more regularly than other family members, averaging 40 weeks in which they either had jobs or wanted employment. Their work histories showed about the same length of time spent in nonfarm jobs as in farm work, with considerable unemployment experienced during the year.

Sons and daughters over 16 years of age living in farm-worker households contributed to the family income by taking seasonal farm jobs and occasional non-farm jobs. They made up one-fifth of the seasonal farm work force, averaging 20 weeks at farm jobs and 5 or 6 weeks at nonfarm work. When not working, they

<sup>1/</sup> For convenience in interviewing and tabulating results, the year was divided into 12 four-week months, or 48 weeks, instead of 52.



Figure 3. Cotton chopping is done in the late spring and early summer (USDA photo)



Figure 4. Crew workers assemble at pick-up points in Pine Bluff for transportation to farms in stake trucks also used for hauling cotton to gins. (Ark. ES photo)



Figure 5. Cotton picking provides 10 or 12 weeks of work a year for seasonal farm workers (USDA photo)

usually withdrew from the labor force. Many were still in school, and some had household responsibilities. Unemployment averaged 4 weeks during the year, occurring usually during the August lay-by period when school was not in session.

Children under 16, who comprised one-tenth of the seasonal labor force, were in the labor force an average of 22 weeks, which was almost exclusively spent in farm work. When not employed, they withdrew from the labor force to attend school. These figures and more detailed individual employment histories collected during the survey indicate that some children in the neighborhoods studied leave school early to accompany their mothers and older brothers and sisters into the cotton fields, and that many of them start school late in the fall for the same reason. These families probably depend to a cer-

tain extent on the earnings of young children because of economic pressure, but the result can only be to limit this earning capacity in the long run, as the children are prevented from attaining higher training and skills.

Many of the households surveyed had "other" relatives, such as parents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, as well as lodgers. These persons were usually in the labor force longer than other groups of workers except male heads, most of the time being devoted to farm work. Unemployment was considerable among this group.

#### Number and Duration of Jobs Held

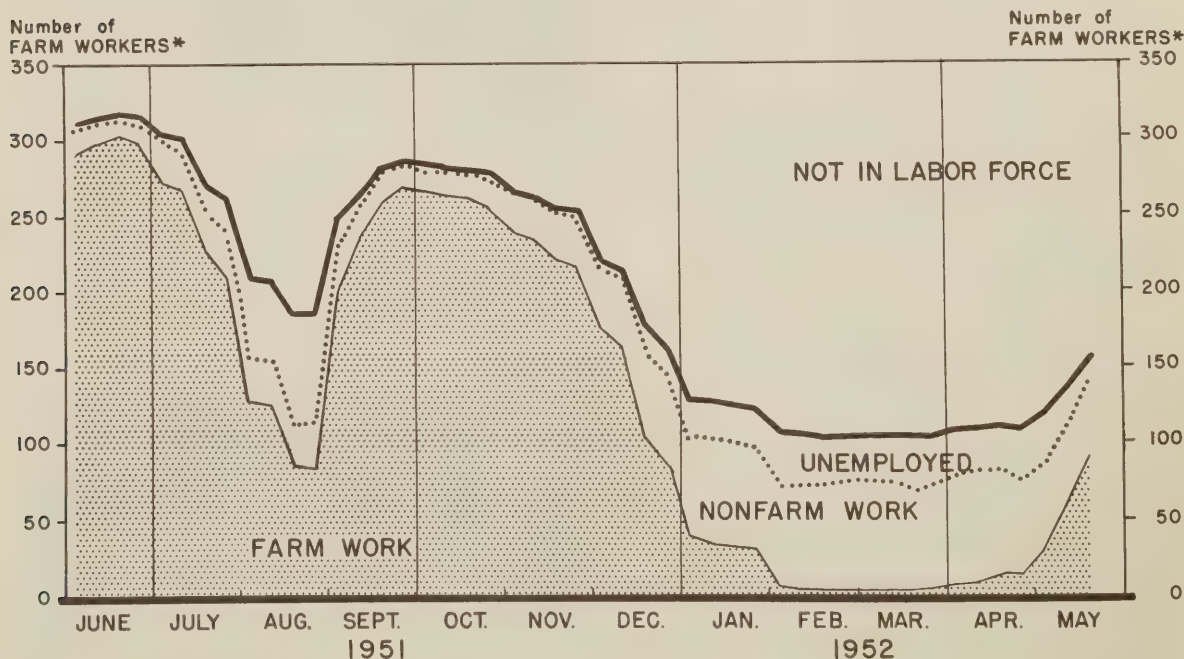
The 349 farm workers in the surveyed group reported 881 periods of employment in the course of the year preceding the

Chart 1

*In Pine Bluff, Arkansas*

## FARM WAGE WORKERS

DISTRIBUTION BY LABOR FORCE STATUS, MAY 1951 - May 1952



\*Persons in the Survey Who Did Farm Wage Work at Any Time During Year

interview, an average of 2.5 jobs per worker (appendix table E). A "job" in this study was used in a special sense. Since farm workers of the type studied change employers often in the course of a season and even in the course of a single week, it was not considered practicable to ask them to recall the exact time and circumstance of each change of employer. Consequently, periods of continuous employment at a single activity were considered one job for the purpose of this study regardless of how many employers were involved.

By this definition, it was found that 70 percent of the workers surveyed had reported 2 or 3 periods of continuous employment in the preceding year. One-sixth of the workers had had more than 3 jobs, including several male family heads reporting as many as 6 periods of work. Household members other than male heads usually had 2 periods of work. Workers who combined farm and nonfarm employment reported an average of 4 periods of employment during the year compared with only 2 for those working at farm jobs exclusively. Long-term seasonal farm workers averaged 3 jobs, compared with 2 for short-term workers.

Duration of individual jobs varied with the type of employment. About half of the nonfarm jobs were for 81 days or more of

employment, while farm jobs averaged less than 40 days (table 13). Periods of cotton picking usually lasted twice as long as periods of cotton chopping.

### Seasonality of Employment and Turnover Rates

The seasonal pattern of employment for the group of farm workers surveyed is illustrated by chart 1. The number employed in farm jobs peaks sharply in June and July, dropping in late July and August to resume in the September-November picking season. There were only scattered reports of farm jobs in winter. Nonfarm employment moved in a complementary pattern, increasing in August, declining in September, and rising again between December and May. The employment pattern of this group of farm workers is not representative of all farm workers in the area. The chart shows that there was more employment in the late spring than in the fall among the workers surveyed. Other information about the area shows a higher total employment of farm workers in the fall. The reason is that many non-local workers come into the area during the cotton picking season. Since the study was made among local workers only, the chart does not reflect the large increase of nonlocal workers in the farm labor force.

The pattern of intermittent seasonal employment results in an extremely high turnover rate for farm workers living in Pine Bluff. Table 14 shows an average of 48 jobs begun and 64 jobs ended each month compared with a monthly average of 181 workers employed. This would amount to the approximate equivalent of an accession rate of 26 percent and a separation rate of 35 percent. In most industries, a monthly turnover rate of 4 percent for accessions and separations is considered about average.

Turnover rates would be even higher if data were in terms of individual employers instead of periods of continuous

Table 13. Duration of periods of employment, farm and nonfarm work, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Days worked per individ- ual period	Periods of employment			
	Farm		Nonfarm	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	754	100	127	100
Less than 10	118	16	4	3
11 - 20	95	12	9	7
21 - 40	217	29	16	13
41 - 60	162	21	17	13
61 - 80	105	14	16	13
81 - 100	29	4	21	16
Over 100	20	3	37	29
Not specified	8	1	7	6



Table 14. Number of jobs begun and ended each month compared with total employment of farm workers in all jobs, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, June 1951 - April 1952 <sup>1/</sup>

Year and Month	Average weekly number workers employed	Periods of employment	
		Begun	Ended
Average	181	48	64
1951 June	313	80	41
July	272	24	154
August	138	23	131
September	264	268	53
October	281	36	41
November	257	23	73
December	183	31	147
1952 January	103	21	36
February	80	7	7
March	80	5	2
April	83	13	19

<sup>1/</sup>For purposes of this table the beginning and ending months of the survey period (May 1951 and May 1952) are omitted since jobs reported as having begun or ended on these months may actually have extended beyond the survey period.

employment. Half of all periods of farm employment was for two or more employers (table 15). Many of the jobs were reported to have been for 10 or more employers, but this may be because respondents

Table 15. Periods of farm employment by number of employers, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951-May 1952

Number of employers	Periods of farm employment	
	Number	Percent
Total	754	100
1	313	41
2	66	9
3	116	15
4	97	13
5	96	13
More than 5	66	9

who could not remember the exact number may have used "10" as a round number rather than as an exact figure.

#### Method of Recruitment for Farm Jobs

Farm employers were active in recruiting workers in the Negro section of Pine Bluff during seasons when workers were needed. Responses of workers show that a substantial proportion (41 percent) of farm jobs was obtained through the direct solicitation of farmers who sent their trucks to established pick-up points where workers assemble in the early dawn (table 16).

Table 16. Distribution of farm jobs by method of recruitment, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Methods of recruitment	Farm jobs	
	Number	Percent
All methods	754	100
Solicited by employer	305	41
Personal search	173	23
Crew leader	142	19
Previous contact with employer	109	14
Friend or relative	15	2
Other and unspecified	10	1

One-third of the jobs were obtained by personal search of the workers or by workers returning to former employers. Crew leaders were also important in recruiting farm labor in Pine Bluff. The role of the Employment Service was not so much that of direct placement of workers, but of facilitating the operation of the labor market by establishing pick-up points for day-haul workers and by helping crew leaders establish work relationships with growers.

## WAGES AND INDIVIDUAL WAGE EARNINGS

The irregular employment of the farm workers surveyed is reflected by the fact that average earnings from 19 weeks of farm work and 5 weeks of nonfarm work during the survey year were only \$494. This figure compares with national average individual earnings of \$879 in 1951 for farm workers with more than 25 days of employment<sup>1/</sup>. The Census of Population shows a median individual income of \$610 for urban and rural nonfarm Negro persons in Arkansas with income in 1949<sup>2/</sup>.

### Wage Rates for Farm and Nonfarm Jobs

Wages for farm jobs were paid directly by employers in 84 percent of the jobs reported and by crew leaders in the remaining 16 percent of the farm jobs. Wages for cotton chopping and cultivating ranged from \$2 to \$6 per day, averaging between \$4 and \$5. The going rate for cotton picking was between \$2 and \$3 per 100 pounds (appendix table F). A very small number of better paying jobs as tractor or truck drivers were reported by the workers interviewed. Transportation to and from the farm was provided without cost to the worker for practically all of the cotton jobs.

1/ The Hired Farm Work Force of 1951, Louis J. Ducoff and Eleanor M. Birch, U. S. Department of Agriculture, October 1952.

2/ U. S. Census of Population, 1950, Detailed Characteristics, P-C4, Table 87, P. 4-201.

Many of the nonfarm jobs were low paying personal-service jobs at a wage between \$10 and \$19 a week. Day workers were paid between \$2 and \$4 per day. Laborers received \$.75 to \$1 an hour on the average (appendix table G).



Figure 6. Crew leaders weigh cotton picked as a basis for wage payment (Ark. ES photo)

### Daily Earnings from Farm and Nonfarm Employment

More than half of the farm jobs reported by workers by the surveyed group paid less than \$5 a day and one-third paid less than \$4 a day (table 17). Nonfarm jobs were better paying, averaging \$5 per day (appendix table H).

However, important differences in relative earnings from farm and nonfarm jobs affect the employment practices and preferences in the survey group. The average adult male could earn between \$6 and \$7 per day as an urban laborer compared with \$4 to \$5 as a seasonal farm

Table 17. Earnings per day from farm jobs by relationship of worker to head of household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Relationship to head	Total farm jobs	Percent distribution of jobs by earnings per day							
		All earnings	Less than \$3.00	\$3.00-3.99	\$4.00-4.99	\$5.00-5.99	\$6.00-6.99	\$7.00-7.99	\$8.00 & over
Total	754	100	9	24	26	28	6	3	4
Male heads	97	100	11	25	21	22	15	3	3
Female heads	159	100	4	23	32	31	3	1	6
Wives	180	100	11	28	17	29	6	5	4
Sons, 16 & over 1/	55	100	14	22	29	31	4	-	-
Daughters, 16 & over 2/	98	100	14	27	30	22	2	2	3
Children under 16	89	100	3	18	36	32	3	1	7
Others	76	100	9	26	25	25	11	3	1

1/ Includes sons-in-law.

2/ Includes daughters-in-law.

worker. Only 3 percent of farm jobs of male heads were for \$8 or more, while 30 percent of the nonfarm jobs paid that much. For female family heads, wives of heads, and daughters over 16, \$4 to \$5 for farm work looked attractive compared with \$2 to \$3 per day for private household work.

#### Wage Earnings from All Sources

Male household heads in the surveyed group earned \$827 during the course of the year. Although they had averaged slightly more time in farm than in nonfarm jobs, earnings from nonfarm employment contributed more to their wage income, \$471, or about \$28 per week. Individual wage earnings from farm employment averaged \$359 for male family heads, or about \$20 per week (table 18).

Female household heads, who because of their added household responsibilities were in the labor force only about half a year, averaged \$477 from wage earnings, including \$415 from farm work (\$20 per week) compared with \$67 from nonfarm employment for the year (\$14 per week).

Earnings of housewives averaged only \$333 per year, about \$16 per week for 18 weeks of farm work and \$17 per week for 3 weeks of nonfarm work. The higher weekly average earnings from nonfarm employment with a lower unit wage are attributable to more irregular employment on farm jobs.

Although sons and daughters over 16 tended to work approximately the same length of time during the year, individual gross wage earnings for adult male sons were higher--\$531 for sons compared with \$466 for daughters. The difference between earnings of sons and earnings of daughters is explained by better paying nonfarm jobs for boys as compared with girls. Boys averaged \$27 per week from nonfarm work compared with \$11 per week for girls over 16.

The 38 children under 16 in the sample group earned approximately as much from farm work as sons and daughters 16 and over and female household heads, and they averaged more earnings from farm work than the housewives in the group surveyed. Average individual gross earnings for



farm and nonfarm work were \$426 for children under 16. "Other" household workers, including relatives and lodgers, averaged \$589 in wage earnings from farm and nonfarm jobs.

It is not possible to draw a composite picture of household or family income from these figures, since most of the male household heads did not work at farm jobs

Table 18. Average individual wage earnings from farm and nonfarm employment in year preceding interview, by relationship of workers to head of household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Relationship to head	Farm workers (number)	Farm and nonfarm work (average)	Farm work (average)	Nonfarm work (average)
All workers	349	\$494	\$370	\$127
Male heads	46	827	359	471
Female heads	71	477	415	67
Wives	90	333	283	53
Sons 16 & over 1/	27	531	393	133
Daughters 16 & over 2/	45	466	406	68
Children under 16	38	426	424	3
Others	32	589	397	216

1/ Includes sons-in-law.

2/ Includes daughters-in-law.

at all and therefore were not studied. There were 112 households with male heads, but only 46 of the male heads reported any farm jobs.

Most male household heads were non-farm workers whose wives, sons and daughters, or other relatives worked for a good part of the year to supplement the household income. As previously indicated, an unusually large number of households were headed by women. Typically, the female head of the household worked only part of the year, and depended heavily on income brought in by a son, a daughter, or another relative in the household.

#### Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, and Relief

Since the farm workers in Pine Bluff usually held some nonfarm jobs, many of their jobs were covered under old-age and survivors' insurance, and some of them were subject to payroll deductions for income tax. Of the 265 workers who were not working at some time during the year, only 6 received unemployment compensation benefits and 6 received public assistance.



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## **AVAILABILITY FOR OFF-SEASON EMPLOYMENT**

The extensive unemployment and the low income of wage earners studied are explained by the seasonal nature of the work they do. To utilize their services more fully, practical ways and means of extending employment during off seasons for those in the labor force must be explored. To do this, it is necessary to take into consideration the characteristics and skills of the workers surveyed, the seasons of the year when they are available for additional work, the kinds of employment available for workers during those seasons, and, finally, the willingness of the workers themselves to accept the employment offered.

### Who Could Be Recruited

The fact that most of the farm workers in the Pine Bluff households were wives, sons, and daughters indicates that the workers are largely a dependent group. Most likely to be available for additional work are the small number of male household heads who do mainly farm work and the "other" relatives living in the household. Together these two groups comprise one-fifth of the farm worker group. Sons and daughters, including many over 16, are still in school and therefore are not likely to accept other employment. Housewives and most female household heads have household duties. They may be free to accept local but not out-of-area work. Furthermore, they probably would prefer part-time to full-time employment so that they can devote some time to their households. Only

one worker of 349 interviewed had migrated to other areas for work.

To obtain some first-hand facts on the number of workers who could be recruited at any time during the year special questions concerning their willingness to work were asked of those respondents between 16 and 60 years of age who indicated that they did not expect to be regularly employed during the year following the survey (table 19). There were 349 workers in the survey group, of whom 299 were between 16 and 60 years of age. Of these 299, 201 indicated that they expected to be employed for less than 10 months in the following year. Of these 201 workers, 127 were interested in some off-season farm employment locally, 120 wanted local nonfarm work, and 29 were available for nonlocal jobs.

Since the sampling ratio in this study was 1 in 3, there is an indication that some 350 or 400 of the Pine Bluff farm workers are available for recruitment locally during slack farm seasons and that some 75 to 100 would be available for non-local farm jobs. Most of the workers who expressed an interest in off-season jobs were women; male family heads usually had some nonfarm job commitments for their off-season periods.

There is some evidence that questions as to availability were not clearly understood, since they were necessarily couched in abstract terms. If it had been possible to make concrete job offers to the workers

interviewed, the number willing to take off-season local jobs, or even nonlocal jobs, might have been higher.

### When Can Workers Be Recruited?

Utilization of this reservoir of workers during off seasons depends on the periods of the year they customarily work and the kinds of employment available for them during those seasons. The most promising period for recruitment of these workers is in the July-September quarter (appendix table I). More specifically, this refers to the month of August when some 30 percent of the labor force is unemployed. Unlike the winter months of high unemployment, school youth are in the labor force in August. This is an unfavorable time for finding farm employment within commuting distance of Pine Bluff because of the one-crop characteristics of farms.

Apart from the midsummer availability of farm workers, many are interested in local jobs from December through May. The only possibility during these seasons would be to find local nonfarm work, since the agricultural production cycle is inactive at that time. The non-farm labor market in Pine Bluff was loose during those months in 1952 for the categories of workers described in this report. Although Pine Bluff's industry was expanding, the possibility of developing

more employment opportunities for unskilled workers in winter did not appear hopeful, since much of the nonfarm work is in outdoor industries, such as construction and lumbering, which have their greatest employment needs in spring, summer, and fall.

Table 19. Farm workers 16-60 years of age by sex and availability of work in the coming year, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Availability for work	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	No.	Pct. <sup>1/</sup>	No.	Pct. <sup>1/</sup>	No.	Pct. <sup>1/</sup>
Farm workers, 16-60	299	--	77	--	222	--
Farm workers questioned as to availability 2/	201	100	35	100	166	100
Available for:						
Local farm work	127	63	23	66	104	63
Local nonfarm work	120	60	25	71	95	57
Nonlocal farm work	29	14	9	26	20	12

1/ Duplicated percentage figures--the same workers may have been available for local farm work, non-farm work, and nonlocal farm work.

2/ Includes workers 16-60 who indicated that they do not expect to work for pay during the coming year, expect to work for less than 9 months, or expect to work an indefinite number of months. Not included are 20 workers who did not respond to this section of the schedule.





Appendix Table A. Farm-laborer households by sex of head, size of household, and number of workers in household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Size of household and number of workers	Number households		
	Total	Male heads	Female heads
All households <sup>1/</sup>	189	112	77
1 Person	16	1	15
1 worker	16	1	15
2 Persons	62	37	25
1 worker	18	4	14
2 workers	44	33	11
3 Persons	20	12	8
1 worker	5	2	3
2 workers	8	5	3
3 workers	7	5	2
4 Persons	31	19	12
1 worker	4	1	3
2 workers	12	11	1
3 workers	11	6	5
4 workers	4	1	3
5 or More Persons	60	43	17
1 worker	6	3	3
2 workers	22	15	7
3 workers	18	17	1
4 workers	13	8	5
5 or more workers	1	-	1

<sup>1/</sup> Of the 204 households surveyed, 15 did not specify sex of household head or did not have farm worker head.

Appendix Table B. Farm wage workers in farm laborer households by relationship to head of household and by duration of farm work in the preceding year, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Relationship to head of household	Farm workers					
	Total		Short-term seasonal and casual		Long-term seasonal and regular	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Total	349	100	134	100	215	100
Male heads	46	13	19	14	27	13
Female heads	71	20	23	17	48	22
Wives	90	26	36	27	54	25
Sons, 16 and over <sup>1/</sup>	27	8	13	10	14	6
Daughters, 16 and over <sup>2/</sup>	45	13	18	13	27	13
Children under 16	38	11	17	13	21	10
Others	32	9	8	6	24	11

<sup>1/</sup> Includes sons-in-law.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes daughters-in-law.

Appendix Table C. Characteristics of unemployed workers compared with all workers surveyed, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Category of worker	Survey group		Unemployed <sup>1/</sup>		Periods of unemployment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Relationship to head	349	100	125	100	199	100
Male heads	46	13	25	20	34	17
Female heads	71	20	20	16	43	22
Wives	90	26	20	16	42	21
Sons, 16 and over <sup>2/</sup>	27	8	13	10	17	9
Daughters, 16 and over <sup>3/</sup>	45	13	21	17	30	15
Children under 16	38	11	9	7	10	5
Others	32	9	17	14	23	11
Type of work <sup>4/</sup>	349	100	125	100	199	100
Farm work only	261	75	85	68	145	73
Mostly farm work	39	11	21	17	29	15
Mostly nonfarm work	49	14	19	15	25	12

<sup>1/</sup> Workers reporting one or more periods of unemployment during the survey year, May 1951-May 1952. <sup>2/</sup> Includes sons-in-law. <sup>3/</sup> Includes daughters-in-law. <sup>4/</sup> Refers to work done most of time in preceding year.

Appendix Table D. Number of workers employed at farm jobs in two weeks preceding interview by relationship to head of household and by days worked, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Relationship to head of household	Total	Farm workers by days worked									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or more
Total	94	4	16	19	8	2	9	4	5	3	24
Male heads	13	1	4	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Female heads	18	1	1	1	1	-	4	1	-	1	8
Wives	17	-	3	4	-	-	5	2	-	1	2
Sons, 16 and over <u>1/</u>	7	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	2
Daughters, 16 and over <u>2/</u>	16	-	4	2	5	-	-	-	1	-	4
Children under 16	11	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Others	12	-	3	2	-	1	-	1	2	1	2

1/ Includes sons-in-law.

2/ Includes daughters-in-law.

Appendix Table E. Farm workers by number of farm and nonfarm jobs<sup>1/</sup> held and by category of worker, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951 - May 1952

Category of workers	Farm workers	Jobs reported	Percent distribution of workers by number of jobs						
			Total	1	2	3	4	5	6
Relationship to head	349	881	100	14	40	30	13	3	<u>2/</u>
Male heads	46	145	100	9	20	39	17	11	4
Female heads	71	179	100	13	42	27	17	1	-
Wives	90	199	100	22	45	24	8	1	-
Sons, 16 and over <u>3/</u>	27	62	100	19	41	33	7	-	-
Daughters, 16 and over <u>4/</u>	45	110	100	11	42	38	9	-	-
Children under 16	38	91	100	10	47	37	3	3	-
Others	32	95	100	3	35	28	31	3	-
Type of work	349	881	100	14	40	30	13	3	<u>2/</u>
Farm work only	261	567	100	18	48	30	3	1	-
Mostly farm work	39	148	100	3	-	43	46	5	3
Mostly nonfarm work	49	166	100	-	24	27	37	10	2
Type of seasonal worker	349	881	100	14	40	30	13	3	<u>2/</u>
Short-term	134	285	100	33	36	18	10	3	-
Long-term	215	596	100	1	42	39	15	2	1

1/ Periods of continuous employment at a single activity regardless of how many employers are involved.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

3/ Includes sons-in-law.

4/ Includes daughters-in-law.

Appendix Table F. Farm jobs by wage and unit of payment and by crop and activity, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951-May 1952

Wage and unit of payment	Total farm jobs	Cotton		Trailer or truck driver	Other & unspecified
		Cultivating	Harvesting		
Total	754	414	324	6	10
Day					
\$2.00-2.99	61	59	1	-	1
3.00-3.99	116	113	1	1	1
4.00-4.99	154	150	-	2	2
5.00-5.99	63	62	-	-	1
6.00 & over	26	20	-	3	3
Piece Rate					
Less than \$2.00 cwt.	6	-	6	-	-
2.00-2.99 cwt.	270	-	270	-	-
3.00-3.99 cwt.	36	-	36	-	-
4.00-4.99 cwt.	2	-	2	-	-
Not specified	20	10	8	-	2

Appendix Table G. Nonfarm jobs by unit of payment and wage rate, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951-May 1952

Unit and wage rate	Nonfarm jobs
Total	127
Month	
Under \$100	1
Week	
Under \$10.00	2
\$10.00-19.00	29
20.00-29.00	6
30.00-39.00	4
Day	
\$2.00-2.99	12
3.00-3.99	11
4.00-4.99	3
5.00-5.99	5
6.00-6.99	10
Hour	
\$.75-.99	24
1.00-1.24	11
1.25-1.49	1
Unspecified	8

Appendix Table H. Earnings per day from nonfarm jobs by relationship of worker to head of household, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1951-May 1952

Relationship to head	Percent distribution of jobs by earnings per day								
	Non-farm jobs	All earnings	Less than \$3.00	\$3.00-3.99	\$4.00-4.99	\$5.00-5.99	\$6.00-6.99	\$7.00-7.99	\$8.00 & over
Total	127	100	28	20	3	7	24	2	16
Male heads	48	100	-	4	6	10	44	6	30
Female heads	20	100	50	40	-	-	5	-	5
Wives	19	100	53	37	-	-	10	-	-
Sons, 16 and over 1/	7	100	-	14	-	14	72	-	-
Daughters, 16 and over 2/	12	100	25	42	25	-	-	-	8
Children under 16	2	100	-	50	-	-	-	-	50
Others	19	100	-	32	21	5	16	10	16

1/ Includes sons-in-law. 2/ Includes daughters-in-law.

Appendix Table I. Farm workers aged 16-60 available at some time during year for offseason work by quarter in which they expect to be available for local farm work, local nonfarm work, and nonlocal farm work, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, May 1952

Quarters available	Farm workers available for								
	Local farm work			Local nonfarm work			Nonlocal farm work		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Available at some-time	127	23	104	120	25	95	29	9	20
January-March	64	10	54	79	12	67	3	-	3
April-June	74	11	63	58	12	46	5	1	4
July-September	105	19	86	77	20	57	13	5	8
October-December	41	7	34	36	8	28	2	-	2
Quarter unspecified	15	3	12	22	3	19	16	4	12







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